REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12, 45, and 46 are pending in this application. Claims 45 and 46 are added by the present response. Claims 2-5, 9, and 11 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,973,319 to Washisu. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Washisu in view of U.S. patent 5,727,234 to Sakagami et al. (herein "Sakagami").

Initially, applicants and applicants' representative wish to thank Examiners Tran and Christensen for the interview granted applicants' representative on March 31, 2004. During that interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, claim amendments were discussed to clarify the claims over the applied art. The present response sets forth claim amendments, similar to but not in complete accord, and comments, presented during the interview. The Examiners indicated that such claim amendments and comments appear to distinguish the claims over the applied art.

Addressing now the above-noted rejections in detail, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Each of independent claims 1 and 10 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now clarifies the relation between the "prediction arithmetic unit" and "shake correction unit". The claim amendments particularly clarify that in the claimed image forming apparatus of claim 1 predicted shake information is calculated. Claim 1 clarifies an operation of calculating "a predictive shake vector based on the predictive shake information". New dependent claims 45 and 46 further recite using "focal length information of the imaging optical system" to calculate the predictive shake vector. That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification

for example at page 38, line 10 et seq. Independent claim 10 is also amended to make similar clarifications as in independent claim 1 noted above.

According to the image forming apparatus of claim 1 an initial predictive shake vector is calculated, and subsequent to the calculation of that predictive shake vector a control unit moves a shake correction unit to an appropriate correction-operation starting position, see for example Figure 5, steps S5, S6. After that initial predictive shake vector is calculated and the shake correction unit is driven, then a standard shake correction operation can take place, see for example step S8 in Figure 5 in the present specification.

Thus, the claims now clarify that an initial predictive correction operation is executed prior to the standard correction operation, and the claims clarify the nature of that predictive correction operation by reciting calculating a "predictive shake vector". The features clarified in the claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Washisu and further in view of Sakagami.

The outstanding Office Action cites the teaching in Washisu at column 8, lines 7-41 to meet the limitations of the "shake detection unit" and "prediction arithmetic unit". However, applicants note that at the noted portion in Washisu a standard shake correction operation is being executed. Washisu does not teach or suggest performing any preliminary predictive shake operation, and specifically one that generates a "predictive shake vector based on the predictive shake information." As noted above, in independent claims 1 and 10 an initial predictive shake operation is performed prior to a shake correction operation. Such a feature is believed to clearly distinguish over Washisu.

Moreover, no teachings in Sakagami are believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Washisu.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 10, and the claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over the applied art.

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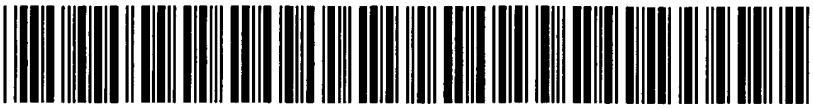

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